

Message Text

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USIAC

AGENCY FOR IAA, PARIS FOR ARS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ARTIST MS. DALE EGEE -- HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

REF: PARIS 02034

1. MISSION VERY PLEASED WITH RECEPTION AND IMPACT OF JUST-CONCLUDED PROGRAM (FEB 16-24) OF TAPESTRY MAKER AND DESIGNER MS. DALE EGEE, AN AMERICAN ARTIST RESIDENT IN ROME NOW ON AN ARS-SPONSORED AFRICAN TOUR. IN ALL ASPECTS IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL FOREIGN CULTURAL EVENTS HERE FOR SOME TIME.

2. THE PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF FIFTEEN OF HER TAPESTRIES AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM (ARTS INSTITUTE) DREW AN UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE VIP AUDIENCE OF 300 FOR THE OPENING FEB 18 PLUS ANOTHER 2,200 WALK-IN VIEWERS, ABOUT HALF STUDENT HALF ADULT, DURING ITS FIVE-DAY STAND. AMBASSADOR BYRNE AND THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF ARTS JOINTLY INAUGURATED THE EXHIBIT FOR AN INVITATIONAL AUDIENCE WHICH CROWDED THE GALLERY AND LINGERED LONG
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BEYOND THE FORMALITIES. (THE NUMBER OF MALIANS WHO ATTENDED CONTRASTED REMARKABLY WITH THE LESS THAN A DOZEN WHO WERE AT THE OPENING OF A SOVIET-SPONSORED PHOTO SHOW A MONTH BEFORE. AS A SIDELIGHT, ONE MORNING SIX OR SEVEN SOVIET EMB OFFICIALS CAME BY EGEE'S EXHIBIT EN MASSE, INCLUDING A TASS CORRESPONDENT WHO INTERVIEWED HER AND PHOTOGRAPHED THE SHOW.) THE OPENING RECEIVED

GOOD COVERAGE IN MALI'S SOLE DAILY "L'ESSOR", AND RADIO MALI--WITHOUT URGING--BROADCAST SEVERAL CULTURAL-NEWS ITEMS ON IT DURING THE WEEK, PUBLICITY WHICH CERTAINLY CONTRIBUTED TO GOOD DAILY ATTENDANCE.

3. IN ADDITION TO TIME SPENT DAILY AT THE EXHIBIT, MS. EGEE CONDUCTED SEVERAL MINI-PROGRAMS ON THE WEAVING ARTS FOR STUDENTS AT THE INSTITUTE, DISCUSSING DESIGN, USE OF LOCAL MATERIALS, ETC., RAISING THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS AND GIVING THEM SOME SENSE OF THE WORLD OF ART OUTSIDE MALI. MS. EGEE WAS ALSO GUEST OF HONOR AT A RECEPTION AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, A WELL-ATTENDED GATHERING THAT BROUGHT A NUMBER OF NEW FACES INTO THE EMB CIRCLE. MS. EGEE'S FRENCH IS EXCELLENT, AND SHE WAS UNTIRING AND EXTREMELY OUTGOING IN ALL HER PERSONAL CONTACTS THROUGHOUT WHAT WAS AN EXHAUSTING WEEK.

4. IT HAS BEEN SEVERAL YEARS SINCE USIS HAS HOSTED AN "ORIGINAL ART" EXHIBIT IN BAMAKO, AND DALE EGEE'S WORKS AND HER PRESENCE BROUGHT US BACK INTO THE PUBLIC EYE IN A MOST FAVORABLE WAY, AS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ARTS: "THANKS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR TAKING THIS INITIATIVE." NOTES IN THE EXHIBIT'S VISITORS' BOOK ALSO REFLECT THIS: "BEAUTIFUL AND IMAGINATIVE," "IMPRESSED BY THE DESIGNS," "VERY APPRECIATIVE THAT MALI CHOSEN FOR THIS EXPOSITION...." AT THE OPENING THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR, WHO RECEIVED HIS TRAINING IN THE USSR, MENTIONED TO THE PAO, WITH OBVIOUS PLEASURE, THAT "THE MUSEUM HAS NEVER LOOKED UNCLASSIFIED

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BETTER", ADDING, WITH SOME PUZZLEMENT, "THE EXPOSITION IS WITHOUT PROPAGANDA." WHICH, OF COURSE, IS PART OF THE INTENDED MESSAGE. KUDOS TO ARS FOR SELECTING EGEE. GILBERT

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